

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04113 220435Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4113

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4113 VICE 4112)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY/AR FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJECT: MEETING OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER WITH THE
SECRETARY

REF: CORR/ALLITTO TELECON 6/16

1. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT YOU REQUEST THAT THE
SECRETARY RECONSIDER HIS DECISION NOT TO HAVE A BI-
LATERAL WITH ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE AYALA
WHEN THE OASGA IS CONVOKED NEXT WEEK. I SUGGEST
FOLLOWING FACTORS MAKE IT HIGHLY DESIREABLE IN TERMS
OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ECUADOR THAT THE
SECRETARY MEET WITH AYALA.

2. ECUADOR IS SURELY ONE OF THE FEW, IF NOT THE ONLY,
COUNTRIES IN THE OAS WHOSE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS NOT YET
MET WITH THE SECRETARY. AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE
HAS NOT MET WITH AN ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE 1975.
ACCORDING TO OUR COUNT, THE SECRETARY HAS MET
FOUR TIMES IN RECENT HISTORY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER
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OF PERU (ECUADOR'S RIVAL). THIS GIVES THE APPEARANCE
OF USG FAVORITISM TOWARD PERU, A SITUATION UNDERLINED
IN THE MINDS OF ECUADOREANS BY RECENT FRONTPAGE
NEWSPAPER PHOTOS OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT TRANSITTING THE
U.S. ENROUTE TO PERU.
-- THE USG HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE PEACFUL SETTLE-
MENT OF THE PERUVIAN-ECUADOREAN BORDER DISPUTE, INCLUDING

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER
AYALA. A MEETING WITH THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER
WOULD ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO USE SUCH DEVICES IN THE
FUTURE.

-- ECUADOR IS MOVING TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND THE MEETING
WOULD BE YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO NUDGE THE GOE TOWARD
COMPLETION OF THIS EFFORT THROUGH AN OPEN AND HONEST
ELECTION.

-- A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THIS TIME
WOULD BETTER THE ENVIRONMENT FOR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
GONZALEZ, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE NEXT MONTH. DENIAL
OF THE APPOINTMENT WILL HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

3. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS I HOPE THAT YOU CHOOSE TO RAISE
THE SUBJECT AGAIN WITH THE SECRETARY AND WILL BE SUCCESSFUL
IN GAINING A FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER
BY THE SECRETARY.
CORR

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NNN

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